Steel.—Ornamented on the top with the royal arms, surmounted by the rose, thistle, and shamrock; on the right side a figure of her Majesty, in a niche with canopy and bracket, on the sides of which are the allegorical figures of Justice and Plenty; and on the left side of the door a figure of Egbert, the first king of England, in a niche with canopy and bracket, at the sides of which are the allegorical figures of Discord and Suffering.

This would form one fair specimen among a variety, though it has rather a disagreeable dodging effect, produced by the mixture of large and small figures in the same range.

41. Design for the principal door of the House of Lords, by Thomas Drew. Apparently sent in joke.

44. Design for the principal door of the House of Lords, by Henry Ringham.—This design is for folding doors, the extreme thickness would be nine inches. Has merit; the figures are in two stories; but the carving is of less value.

45. Design for the principal door of the House of Lords, by Samuel Pratt, Jun. In many respects a good design.

47. Specimen of carved work, relating to design No. 41, by Thomas Drew. From its style altogether inadmissible.

48. Design for the principal door of the House of Lords. (In the angle near the end of the screen.) By Stephen Prebble.—The panel at the head contains the Queen's arms, the figure beneath on the right is intended to represent King Alfred, that on the left Lycurgus, the celebrated legislator of Lacedæmoon. In the bottom panel, on the right, is the Tudor rose, the emblem of the union of the rival Houses of York and Lancaster, and on the left a portcullis, the arms of Westminster.

49. Design for the principal door of the House of Lords, by Benjamin Baker.

This is accompanied by good carving, but its style entirely out of the taste of the building.

(To be continued.)

PROPOSED MODIFICATION OF THE WINDOW DUTIES.

On Saturday the 27th April, at 2 o'clock, a deputation from the Metropolitan Improvement Society, headed by Dr. Southwood Smith, and from the Master Carpenters' Society, headed by Mr. Biers, had an interview with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the subject of the window duties. The two deputations were introduced by Mr. H. G. Knight.

Dr. Southwood Smith explained the object for which the interview had been desired. The attention of the medical profession and the public, as well as her Majesty's Sanatory Commissioners of Inquiry, had of late been much directed to the close connection of fever, scrofula, and other diseases with the defective ventilation of houses. Air and light were as essential to a healthful condition of animal life as food. The purity of the air breathed in towns, it had been shewn, was greatly impaired by the want of perfect drainage, but this evil was further aggravated by the want of a sufficient number of openings in the walls of inferior houses, which would allow injurious gases to escape, and the pure air and light of heaven to gain admission. This defect, it appears, is occasioned by the existing mode of assessing houses to the window-duties, the tendency of which is to discourage ventilation, by causing houses to be built with the *minimum* of untaxable windows allowed by the law, and by inducing the occupiers of lodging-houses and others to block out as much light as they can possibly do without.

Mr. J. Foynbee said, that as one of the surgeons of the St. George's Dispensary, he had been led by the frequency of scrofula cases among his patients to investigate the causes of that disease, and he had no hesitation in saying that the chief causes is the repeated respiration of the same atmosphere in ill-ventilated and over-crowded apartments. Low diet, bad clothing, and want of personal cleanliness are accessories only. He has often succeeded in hastening the cure and preventing the further spread of disease among the families he visited by simply introducing in their close rooms ventilators of perforated zinc plates. The proper place for these ventilators was in the upper part of the window; but he had often found windows stopped up to avoid the window tax, and the landlord usually objected to making any new opening in the walls lest his assessment should be raised.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer inquired whether the gentlemen composing the deputations had compared the comparative mortality of towns abroad with that of towns at home, and if they could undertake to prove that there is less mortality in countries where the window-tax is unknown, as in Ireland for example, than in Great Britain?

Dr. Southwood Smith replied, that no such comparison had been made, because it would not be a fair one. The mortality of towns is the aggregate result of many influences. One source of disease is impure air, and that might be produced from various causes, all of which should, if possible, be removed.

Mr. W. E. Hickson said, that if only one predisposing cause of disease can be removed, it is surely the duty of the Legislature not to neglect it. Scrofula, which had been alluded to, prevails to frightful extent among the children received into the London Union; many of them are the most piteous objects that can be imagined, and have immediately on their admission to be sent to some sea-bathing infirmary. The present application is for the same object as that of one in 1834 to Lord Althorp, when that noble Lord was Chancellor of the Exchequer. Lord Althorp then promised, that although he could not part with the window duties, he would abate the evils they occasioned. An Act was accordingly passed, 4th and 5th William IV., chapter 54, which allowed new windows to be opened free of duty; but it had since been rendered nugatory by the strict interpretation given to the words "duly assessed on the 5th of April, 1835." The lawyers had proved that no one was duly assessed in 1835!

The Chancellor of the Exchequer observed, that it could not have been the intention of the legislature to allow the benefit of the Act to those who had evaded payment of the duties.

Mr. Biers said the case was not one of evasion, as the public could not fairly be assumed to be the proper judges of the validity of assessments. Occupiers of houses paid the duties demanded, and it was the business of the assessor to examine every house, and assess each to the right amount. In his own case a mistake had been made prior to 1835 of one window, upon which it was decided that he had not been duly assessed, although the mistake had been made, not by him, but by the assessor. With regard to the ventilation of houses, he would say, as a practical builder, that but for the tax, he should never erect a house without introducing perhaps four lancet-shaped windows in those parts of a basement where light and air were now excluded, to avoid the additional duty of 8s. 3d. upon each opening.

Mr. G. Knight laid before the Chancellor of the Exchequer the draught of a short bill, embodying the views of the societies represented by the two deputations. It proposed, not to repeal the window duties, but to amend the 4th & 5th of William IV., chapter 54, by enacting that no existing assessment should be raised from any cause whatever, that all new windows should be free from charge, and that in newly-built houses only a fixed and defined number of windows should become liable to the tax, allowing an unlimited number of untaxed openings for light and air. The rule proposed was, that one window only should be chargeable in every 300 feet of flooring on each story; but this was a matter of detail, there were, perhaps, other and equally simple means of effecting the object if the government would adopt the principle of the measure recommended.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said, that if builders would make it their business to study the subject of ventilation, he entertained no doubt that they would find it possible to ventilate houses without any alteration of the window duties. Scrofula, he could bear witness himself, existed in the cottages of the peasantry, which were exempt from window duties. It was easy to propose an alteration in any tax, but difficult to foresee the new evils to which the alteration might give rise. The new mode of assessment proposed might be open to many objections, but if the bill were left with him, he certainly should be willing to give it his consideration.

Mr. Goulburn was assisted during the conference by one of the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes, who seemed altogether opposed to the object, and said that perforated plates of zinc for ventilation might be introduced in external walls free of duty.

FREEMASONS OF THE CHURCH.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE SEVENTEENTH CHAPTER.

April 30.—The Rev. F. P. Pocock, B.A., in the chair.

Mr. Alfred Joseph Stothard presented a lithographic copy (one of the only twelve printed) of a drawing from a distemper painting found about the year 1825, on removing some walling on the north side of the chancel of East Burgholt Church, Suffolk.

Specimens were presented of Maud's Patent Portland Stone Cement (for internal and external stucco, water works, and underpinning), shewing different compositions with sand, and the fractures of brickwork without breaking the cement.

Mr. Frederick Godden, of No. 23, Little St. Thomas Apostle, in the city of London, was elected an architectural associate.

A model, in cork, was exhibited, made by Mr. Joseph Jopling, jun., to a scale of 20 feet to an inch, of the remains of the Cistercian Abbey of Furness; and Mr. Charles Jopling presented a drawing shewing to a scale of one inch to a foot profiles of nine beautiful specimens of base-mouldings, taken by himself from the same abbey. The same gentleman also presented a large lithographic outline elevation of the exquisite, richly-canopied sedilis, lavatory or piscina, &c., of the church of the same abbey.

Mr. Joseph Jopling, sen., explained the use of his apparatus of double-cranks for generating curved lines by simple continuous motion, and created much interest by the seeming promise of usefulness and invention.

Mr. William Gibbs Rogers exhibited a model in terra cotta 14 inches high, by Rysbrach, being the original, from which was executed the monument in Westminster Abbey to the memory of the poet Gay.

Mr. William Harry Rogers exhibited a very elaborate specimen, only 5 inches high, of ancient wrought-iron, in the form of pierced canopy-work and tracery, found at Warwick, suggested to have probably formed part of a lock. (We shall next week give an engraving of this.)

Mr. G. Aitchison, sen., exhibited a very beautiful illuminated vellum deed of the early part of the seventeenth century.

Mr. Alfred Bartholomew exhibited a drawing of the western gateway of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Smithfield, and presented proof impressions of an interior view of St. Olave's Church, Tooley-street, as it lately appeared after its roof was burnt off. A view of the principal external doorway next Monkwell-street, in the city of London, of Barber Surgeons' Hall. Also a view of St. Stephen's New Church, Hull, and an account of its consecration.

Notice was given that the subject of Chapter-vestments would be taken into consideration at the next meeting.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

March 28.—Henry Hallam, Esq., V.P.

Samuel Birch, Esq., Assistant Keeper of the Antiquities in the British Museum, and one of the Secretaries to the English Section of the Archæological Institute at Rome, was elected a Fellow of the Society.

James Dearden, Esq., F.S.A., presented two impressions of a representation of an ancient British ornament, described as a collar, discovered in Lancashire in 1831. It measures in diameter 5½ inches, the weight is 1lb. 4½ oz.; one half is of a square form, enriched with zigzag lines, the other is formed of a number of twisted and engraved ornaments, separated from each other by small rings, precisely similar to the bronze ornament found in Worcestershire, and exhibited by Jabez Allies, Esq., F.S.A., on Dec. 14, 1843. This last is evidently the half of an ornament identical in design and purpose with that discovered in Lancashire.

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